



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Briefing for Congressional Staff
February 13, 2013

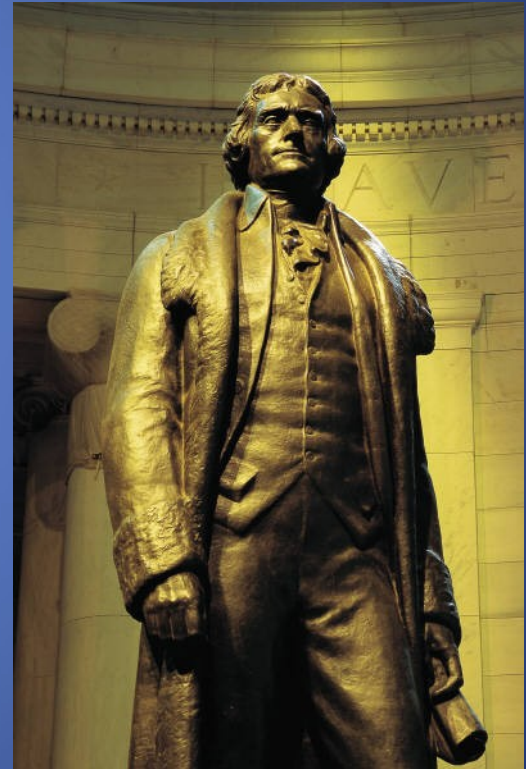
Overview of USCIS Presentation

Part I: Field Operations Directorate, Citizenship Branch

- Organizational Structure
- Naturalization / Citizenship
- USCIS Policy Manual

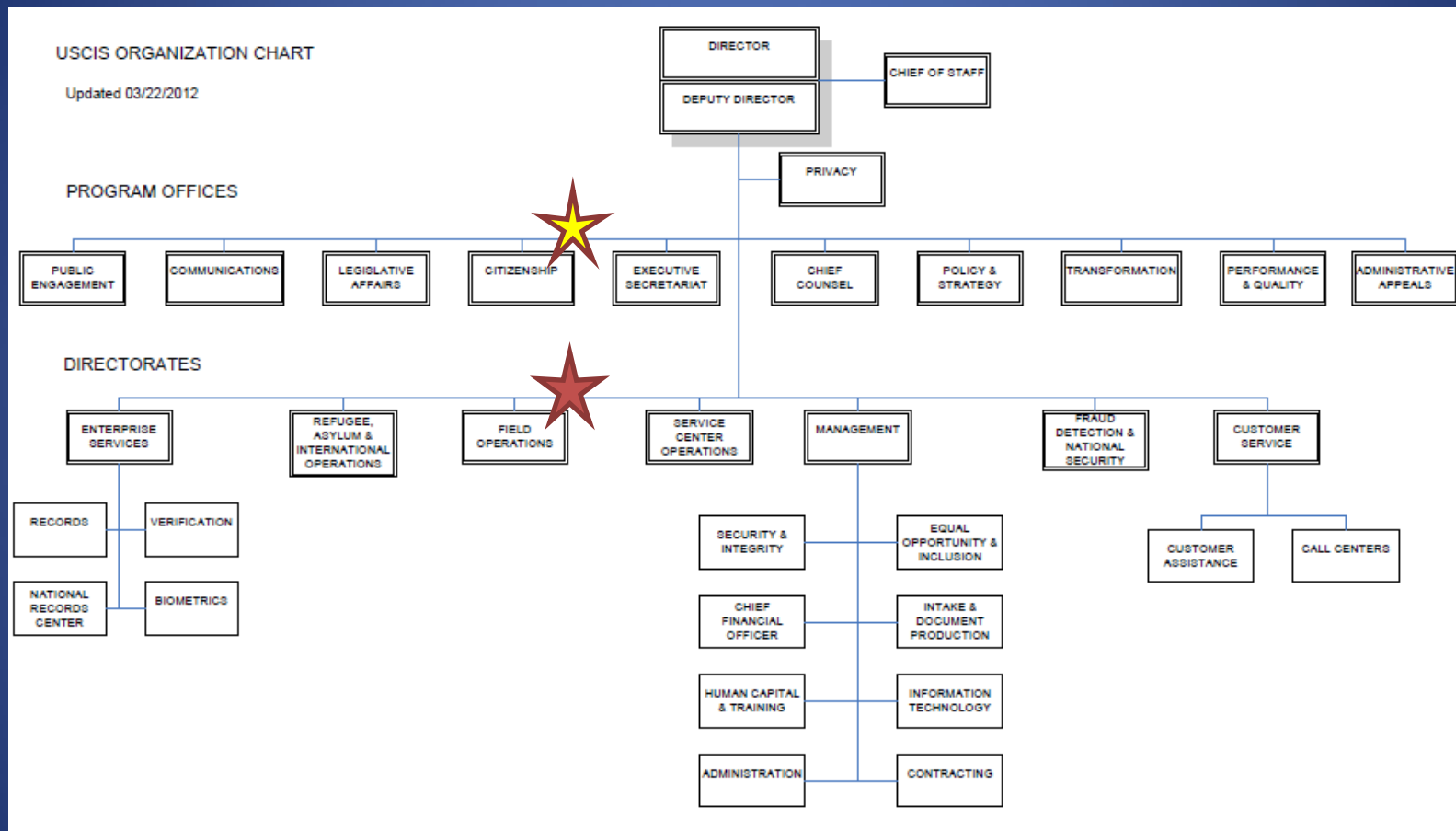
Part II: Office of Citizenship

- Strategic goals
- Recent trends in immigration
- Key initiatives supporting citizenship



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HQ USCIS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



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CITIZENSHIP BRANCH

The Citizenship Branch, within FOD, is responsible for managing the naturalization program and supporting the Regional and Field Offices with all matters pertaining to naturalization and citizenship.

Kristie Krebs, Chief, 202.272.0934

<http://connect.uscis.dhs.gov/org/OFO/Pages/citizenship.aspx>

Deborah Posey	CLAIMS 4 Lead / CLAIMS 4 Training / Centralization N-Forms / SRMs / NCAR/ Early Filing Report & Guidance
Gina Short	“N” Form Revisions POC / Centralization N-Forms / Lockbox Liaison, / CLAIMS 4 Back-up / SRMs / NCAR
Dawn Slaven	NQP 5 / Natz QA / Military Naturalization / MAVNI/ Natz at Basic Training Initiative / CHAP Ops Lead
Magteld La Bella	Denial Templates Lead/ Liaison to BASIC Academy / A/V recording WG POC / AIR Rule and Forms Lead/ Special Handling cases/ CHAP Naturalization Lead
Ely Borjal	N-600, N-600K Inquiries / 319 (b) Inquiries / “N” Form Revisions / Lockbox Liaison / CLAIMS-4 Back-up / SRMs / NCAR / Military Natz Back-up
Stacie Banks	(detailed) DOS Passport Revocation Guidance / M-476 Guide to Naturalization / EB 5 N-400s / WG Guidance for Assistance Requests from LEAs



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CITIZENSHIP BRANCH

NATURALIZATION / CITIZENSHIP

How does someone become a U.S. CITIZEN?

- Born in the United States or in certain territories or outlying possessions
- After Birth through naturalization

What about children born overseas to U.S. citizen parent(s)?



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NATURALIZATION

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The general eligibility requirements are provided below.



- 18 years old at the time of filing
- Time as a Permanent Resident
- Continuous residence in the United States
- Physical presence in the United States
- Time living where the application is filed
- Good moral character
- Understanding of the English language
- Knowledge of U.S. history and government
- Attachment to the U.S. Constitution



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NATURALIZATION

APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION, FORM N-400

- Based on the applicant's residence, the N-400 is filed at one of USCIS' lockbox facilities in Dallas or Phoenix.
- Once received at the lockbox, the fees are collected and the information on the N-400 is placed in a national system (CLAIMS-4). After the lockbox, the N-400 is sent to the National Benefits Center for preliminary processing.
- The applicant will then receive an appointment to appear at an Application Support Center to submit biometrics.
- Once security checks are complete, the NBC ships the A-file to the appropriate field office for the eligibility interview.



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NATURALIZATION

THE ELIGIBILITY INTERVIEW

- Applicants are placed under oath.
- A USCIS Officer reviews *Form N-400* and determines if the eligibility requirements are met.
- The naturalization test is administered. If the applicant fails any portion of the test, they are afforded a second opportunity (at a subsequent interview) to be tested in those areas failed.
- If additional information is required to establish eligibility, the case is continued and a written request for additional documentation is issued to the applicant.



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NATURALIZATION

THE ELIGIBILITY INTERVIEW



After the eligibility interview the USCIS Officer may render any of the following actions on the case:

- Approve
- Continue for additional information
- Deny



At the interview, the applicant may also choose to withdraw his/her N-400 if found to be statutorily ineligible for naturalization.



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NATURALIZATION OATH CEREMONY

Oath of Allegiance

- If *Form N-400* is approved, applicants will be scheduled for an oath ceremony to recite the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.
- An applicant becomes a naturalized U.S. citizen only after reciting the Oath of Allegiance.
- Certificates of Naturalization are prepared and issued as proof of citizenship at the oath ceremony.



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MILITARY NATURALIZATION

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

Members and veterans of the U.S. armed forces may be eligible for naturalization through their military service under Section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).



SERVICE IN PEACETIME (INA Section 328):
Naturalization through one year or more of qualifying honorable service during any period.

SERVICE DURING PERIODS OF HOSTILITY (INA Section 329):
Naturalization through any amount of qualifying honorable service, but must be during a designated period of hostility.
(We are currently in a designated period of hostility.)

Qualifying service can be in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard, or Coast Guard.



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MILITARY NATURALIZATION APPLICATION PROCESS

Military Members are required to submit:

- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
- Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (certified by the military)

There are no filing fees for Military Applicants

Application packages must
be sent to:



USCIS Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87426
Lincoln, NE 68501-7426

For express/courier deliveries:
USCIS Nebraska Service Center
850 S Street
Lincoln, NE 68508



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NATURALIZATION AT BASIC TRAINING INITIATIVE

- Launched in 2009, with the Army
- Allows USCIS to bring all naturalization-related services to the new enlistees during the basic training program
- Affords military members the earliest possible opportunity to apply for naturalization
- Enlistees bring their completed Form N-400 to basic training. USCIS then collects biometrics and conducts the interview at the basic training site
- If approved, USCIS will administer the Oath of Allegiance the day of or shortly before the basic training graduation day

USCIS currently has a naturalization at basic training initiative with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps; USCIS conducted its very first naturalization ceremony with the Marine Corps at Parris Island as part of recruit training on January 3, 2013.



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NATURALIZATIONS

Approvals and Denials, Fiscal Years 2008 - 2012				
Application for Naturalization (N-400)				
	<u>Regular N-400</u>		<u>Military N-400</u>	
Fiscal Year	Approvals	Denials	Approvals	Denials
2008	1,050,399	120,914	7,865	369
2009	741,982	108,919	10,505	913
2010	619,075	56,246	11,101	748
2011	690,705	56,336	10,326	729
2012	754,558	65,024	9,132	850



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CITIZENSHIP - CHILDREN

Children born outside of the United States to U.S. citizen parent(s)

May acquire U.S. citizenship

- At birth – Apply the law in effect at the time of birth
- After birth (before age 18) – Apply the law in effect when the last condition was met

To receive a Certificate file either:

- Application of Citizenship (N-600); or



For children under age 18, who regularly reside outside the United States, file

- Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322, (N-600K)



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CITIZENSHIP - CHILDREN

Approvals and Denials, Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012

Application of Citizenship (N-600) and Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322 (N-600K)

	N-600		N-600K	
Fiscal Year	Approvals	Denials	Approvals	Denials
2011	56,746	4,792	60,089	5,185
2012	48,914	4,013	51,015	4,479



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POLICY MANUAL

The screenshot displays the USCIS Connect website interface. At the top left is the USCIS logo and the text "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services". To the right is the "USCIS connect" logo. Further right is a search bar labeled "Search USCIS Connect..." with links for "People Search" and "Advanced Search". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "USCIS CONNECT", "DHS CONNECT", "NEWS", "EMPLOYEE RESOURCES", "WORKING RESOURCES", "ORGANIZATION", and "ECN". A banner below the navigation bar shows "UPDATES" with a date "2013-01-07" and a link to "Comprehensive Citizenship and Naturalization Policy Guidance (PDF)". The main content area features a large image of the American flag with the text "USCIS POLICY MANUAL." overlaid. To the right of the image is a search bar labeled "Search USCIS Policy Manual...". Below the image is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Table of Contents", "Updates", "INA", "8 CFR", "Archives", "Glossary / Acronyms", and "Feedback". Below this is a search bar labeled "Search USCIS Policy Manual...". At the bottom of the main content area is a "Printer Friendly" link. The bottom section of the page displays a grid of 13 volumes, each with a number and a title. Volume 12, "CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION", is highlighted in blue.

USCIS POLICY MANUAL.

Search USCIS Policy Manual...

Printer Friendly

VOLUMES	1	2	3
	GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	NONIMMIGRANTS	PROTECTION & PAROLE
	4	5	6
	REFUGEES	ASYLEES	IMMIGRANTS
	7	8	9
	ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS	ADMISSIBILITY	WAIVERS
	10	11	12
	CONSENT TO REAPPLY	TRAVEL, EMPLOYMENT, & IDENTITY DOCUMENTS	CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION
		13	
		FRAUD AND NATIONAL SECURITY	



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POLICY MANUAL

WHAT IS THE POLICY MANUAL?

- Agency's centralized online repository for USCIS's immigration policies

WHAT DOES THE POLICY MANUAL ENTAIL?

User-friendly features and enhancements, such as

- Tables and charts to simplify complex topics
- Links to INA, CFR, public use forms, Legal citations and references in footnotes
- Up-to-the-minute policy updates



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USEFUL LINKS

Policy Manual

<http://connect.uscis.dhs.gov/workingresources/policymanual/Pages/HTML/PolicyManual.aspx>

Part D: General Naturalization Requirements

<http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12-PartD.html>

Part H: Children of U.S citizens

<http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12-PartH.html>

Part I: Military Members and their families

<http://connect.uscis.dhs.gov/workingresources/policymanual/Pages/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12-PartI.aspx>



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USEFUL LINKS

Citizenship

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=a2ec6811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=a2ec6811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

Citizenship through Naturalization

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=d84d6811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=d84d6811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

Citizenship for Military Members & Dependents

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=d9e03e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=d9e03e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>

Citizenship through parents

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=32dffe9dd4aa3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=32dffe9dd4aa3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>



**U.S. Citizenship
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The USCIS Office of Citizenship

Strategic Goals

Established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Office of Citizenship engages and supports partners to welcome immigrants, promote English language learning and education on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and encourage U.S. citizenship by:

- Providing immigrants with opportunities and tools to become vested citizens;
- Building community capacity to prepare immigrants for citizenship; and
- Promoting dialogue and collaboration on civic integration and citizenship and raising awareness of its importance to society



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Immigration to the United States

Recent Trends

- The U.S. is receiving its largest wave of immigrants. The foreign-born population is expected to grow from 13% (40 million) currently to 19% (83 million) by 2050
- Over 80% of immigrants now come from outside Europe (e.g. Mexico, China, India, Philippines)
- Immigrants are now settling in “new gateways” (e.g. North Carolina, Nevada, Georgia) that have little experience providing for the needs of diverse immigrant populations
- Currently, there are approximately 13.1 million permanent residents living in the United States. Roughly 8.5 million of those individuals are eligible to apply for citizenship



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Immigration to the United States

8.5 Million LPRs Eligible to Apply for Citizenship

STATE OF RESIDENCE		COUNTRY OF BIRTH	
California	2,440,000	Mexico	2,650,000
New York	1,000,000	Philippines	330,000
Texas	920,000	Dominican Republic	300,000
Florida	790,000	Cuba	280,000
Illinois	370,000	El Salvador	260,000
New Jersey	360,000	Canada	260,000
Massachusetts	200,000	China	260,000
Washington	170,000	India	240,000
Arizona	170,000	United Kingdom	230,000
Virginia	150,000	Vietnam	210,000



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The USCIS Office of Citizenship

Target Audiences

The Office of Citizenship's efforts to promote citizenship and civic education are primarily focused on three target audiences:

- Permanent residents
- Immigrant-serving organizations
- General public



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The USCIS Office of Citizenship

Key Initiatives for Permanent Residents

- **WelcometoUSA.gov:** The federal government's official web portal for new immigrants. The site is located at www.welcometousa.gov
- **Citizenship Resource Center:** A web-based resource center designed to help permanent residents prepare for the naturalization process and test. The site is located at www.uscis.gov/citizenship
- **Naturalization Information Sessions:** Free information sessions for immigrants to learn more about the naturalization process, test, and eligibility requirements. Events listed at www.uscis.gov/citizenshipsessions



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Key Initiatives for Permanent Residents, Cont'd

- **Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative:** In May 2011, USCIS began a national effort to raise awareness about the rights, responsibilities and importance of U.S. citizenship. Initiative ads and PSAs are available at www.uscis.gov/citizenshipawareness
- **Preparing for the Oath:** A web-based learning tool designed to help immigrants prepare for the civics portion of the naturalization test. This tool is available at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship>
- **America's Literacy Directory:** A zip-code based search engine that identifies local organizations providing English as a Second Language and citizenship classes. This search engine is located at <https://literacydirectory.org>



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Key Initiatives for Immigrant-Serving Organizations

- **Citizenship and Integration Grant Program:** Since September 2009, USCIS has awarded approximately \$18.5 million in grants to expand citizenship preparation services in communities across the nation. Available funding opportunities are listed at www.uscis.gov/grants
- **Civics and Citizenship Toolkit:** A collection of citizenship preparation resources available to all immigrant-serving organizations. To register for a free copy, visit www.citizenshiptoolkit.gov
- **Training Workshops:** Free training workshops designed to enhance the skills needed to teach U.S. history, civics and the naturalization process to immigrant students. Events listed at www.uscis.gov/teachertraining
- **Technical Tools:** Lesson plans, booklets, and multimedia resources available at www.uscis.gov/citizenship



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Key Initiatives for the General Public

- **Special Naturalization Ceremonies:** Held at historic landmarks and other important venues across the United States. Events seek to highlight the commitment new citizens make to this country and the significance of U.S. citizenship
- **Outstanding American by Choice Recognition:** An initiative that highlights the contributions and achievements of naturalized citizens. Since February 2006, more than 80 individuals have been recognized. Recipients are listed at www.uscis.gov/americansbychoice



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